

COPS at Work in America's Schools

▼ Medford, N.J.

Officer Rusty Williams turns kids off drugs in schools by taking them to trauma centers, the morgue, and prisons. He also runs a "Knock and Rap" intervention program that brings the school, family, and police together to deal with students with substance abuse problems.

▼ Vilas, Wisc.

Officer Brad Lila teaches a unit on legal issues in political science classes, instructs them on how to use 911 through reenactments, and conducts presentations on seatbelt use for driver's education courses.

▼ Hanford, Calif.

Officer Darren Matheson, who has overseen a 62 percent drop in expulsions in his school, counsels students on problems ranging from domestic abuse to drugs. During the summer, he runs a Junior Police Academy to teach students the basics the law enforcement profession.



For More Information

To obtain details on COPS programs, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. visit the COPS web site: www.usdoj.gov/cops/.

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School Safety: Protecting Children in Your Community

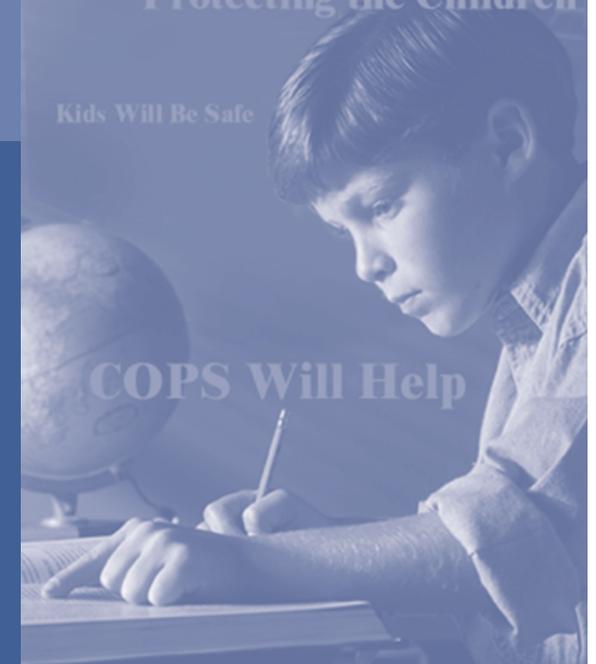
A Guide to COPS School Safety Initiatives

Safety Initiatives

Protecting the Children

Kids Will Be Safe

COPS Will Help



The School Crisis

Recent headlines about violence in our schools are resulting in a surge of interest in school safety. Unfortunately, these headline-making crimes are not isolated incidents. Disorder, crime, and violence are problems in many schools. Urban, suburban, and rural areas alike report numerous incidents; some police departments report that one in four calls are responses to crime in and around schools.



According to the National Education Association:

- ▼ 100,000 children carry guns to school;
- ▼ 160,000 children miss class every day because of the fear of physical harm; and
- ▼ 81 percent of teachers say they spend most of their time on undisciplined students.

How Can We Stop School Crime?

Many communities are discovering trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. The presence of these officers provide schools with on-site security and a direct link to local law enforcement agencies. Ronald Stephens, Director of the National School Safety Center, Malibu, Calif., notes, "As school violence transitions from fist fights to gun fights, there's a need to have a higher level of professionalism on campus."

Officers typically perform a variety of functions within the school. From teaching crime prevention and substance-abuse classes to monitoring troubled students to building respect for law enforcement among students, school-based officers combine the functions of law enforcement and education.

"When our children's safety is at stake, we must take action – and we all must do our part."

–President Clinton

COPS in Schools

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) can provide your community with a unique opportunity to hire officers for your schools. As part of the President Clinton and Vice President Gore's pledge to put 100,000 community policing officers on the street, the COPS Office provides funding for officers through its COPS in Schools program.

Up to \$60 million is available for law enforcement agencies nationwide to hire community policing officers to work in primary and secondary schools. Law enforcement agencies (as well as school districts with their own police departments) can receive up to \$125,000 per officer over three years to work in partnership with education officials to solve crime and disorder problems in and around schools. The COPS in Schools initiative funding guidelines are similar to those of the COPS Universal Hiring Program.

School-Based Partnerships Grant Program

To assist community groups, schools, and law enforcement agencies to address persistent crime problems in and around schools, COPS recently awarded \$16.5 million in grants for 155 jurisdictions. The School-Based Partnerships Program will use problem-solving methods to understand the causes of these problems and develop specific tailor-made responses to combat school-related violence. Problems that will be addressed include: drug dealing and use; sexual assault; vandalism; loitering; and disorderly conduct. Reports on these projects will be made available so that all communities can learn about effective strategies to combat these problems.

